



Ian McGregor

Leading British malariologist

Ian McGregor made a huge contribution to malariology. Equally skilled at field epidemiology and laboratory immunology, he showed that African children who survive their first two years have a longlasting—though not permanent—immunity to malaria; that immunity can be transferred to non-immune people; that antimalarial drugs inhibit the formation of natural immunity; and that pregnant women have decreased immunity but confer immunity on newborns. He also found, contrary to belief, that malaria infection decreased a person's immunity to other parasitic and infectious diseases.

He worked at the Medical Research Council (MRC) unit in the Gambia—it was originally a nutrition unit and later diversified into tropical diseases—and was its director for 22 years.

McGregor was born into a Glasgow tailoring family with a high regard for education. From Rutherglen Academy he went to St Mungo's College and thence to Glasgow Royal Infirmary for his clinical studies. He changed from a sports-mad schoolboy to a high-flying student, carrying off class medals in anatomy, physiology, surgery, public health, and obstetrics and gynaecology. After a year of house jobs in Glasgow he was conscripted into the army in 1946 and trained in

malariology, a word he hadn't previously met, in Gaza. When he was demobbed in 1948 he took a diploma course at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. One of his tutors was Professor Ben Platt, director of the MRC Nutrition Unit, which had an outpost in an old military hospital in the Gambia. He recruited McGregor to see whether East African's malnutrition was caused by malaria parasites appropriating protein.

McGregor chose Keneba, a remote village, for his research, with two nearby villages to act as controls. The area had a five month rainy season when roads became impassable and he and his team were cut off. They slept in the open until their mud huts were built, days before the five month rainy (and malarial) season began. Many years later, they were sent a land rover from the UK. It arrived in the rainy season and, as the roads were impassable, news was sent by a foot messenger carrying the telegram in a cleft stick—shades of Evelyn Waugh and Scoop.

McGregor took a census and registered births, which later meant that, for the first time in that area, children's exact ages were known. He used these data for longitudinal studies over 25 years, finding that insecticides and antimalarials reduced childhood anaemia and hepatomegaly but not height or weight.

Unprotected adults developed immunity, and he showed that this was in the gamma globulin fraction of blood and could be transferred to non-immune adults, the serum from west Africans inducing immunity in east Africans. Using immunofluorescent techniques he showed that serum antibodies are diverse, represented past and current infection, that age-specific antibody levels were an index of how endemic malaria was in that region, and that women are more susceptible to malaria in pregnancy and probably transfer antibodies to their unborn babies.

McGregor was in charge of planning, costing, and ordering supplies to build staff accommodation. When the facility needed a well, the locals were afraid to dig it and a workman from another village left the job half done. McGregor finished it off with aplomb, and halfway through

the task looked up and was surprised to see Sir Eric Pridie, the Colonial Office's senior medical officer, who was paying a surprise visit. In the 1950s, Landsborough Thomson, the MRC head, sent Joan Small, one of his staff, to the Gambia to sort out the bookkeeping. She and McGregor fell immediately in love and married in 1954. She remained with him as his administrator.

He ran a 40 bed hospital for research. His labs were a Mecca for visiting researchers and students doing their electives. He was ambitious, hospitable, very kind to young researchers, and supportive to colleagues. He was clear thinking, prepared to listen to original ideas, and ask questions and go away to read. He was meticulous, testing ideas step by step. He loved fishing, and watching the migratory birds that fly over the Gambia. He is remembered for his lack of vanity, funny hats that kept his ears warm, good cheer, and hearty laugh.

McGregor was head of the Gambia unit from 1954 to 1974, and from 1978 to 1980, when it was otherwise without a director. He spent the intervening years working for the MRC in Mill Hill, and from 1980 was a professorial fellow at Liverpool University. He retired in 1994, aged 72.

He did a fair amount of work for the World Health Organization for 40 years, mainly on malarial control with insecticides. He published 200 papers, many of major importance, and edited, with Walter Wernsdorfer, the definitive textbook, *The Principles and Practice of Malariology*.

He was appointed CBE in 1968 and knighted in 1982. He was made an FRS in 1981 and was president of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from 1983 to 1985.

He retired to Salisbury, where he was active in the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and in his village and church. He leaves a wife, Joan, and a son and daughter.

Caroline Richmond

Professor Sir Ian McGregor CBE, FRS, director MRC Laboratories, the Gambia (b 1922; q Glasgow 1945; FRCP), died from a heart attack on 1 February 2007.

Jessie Reid Gray Buchanan



Former assistant venereologist Leeds General Infirmary (b 1920; q Edinburgh 1943), died from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease on 2 February 2007.

Jessie decided she wanted to become a doctor at the age of 5. Appointed to the female section of the venereal disease department at Leeds General Infirmary in 1946, she remained there until she retired in 1985. She enjoyed her job, as well as managing husband, son, and house. Jessie leaves a husband, Mike; a son; and two grandchildren.

Mike Buchanan

Christopher Charles Draper



Former senior lecturer London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (b 1921; q Oxford 1946; MD, DPH, DTM&H), d 7 December 2006.

Christopher Draper returned from national service in Japan with the Anzac Medical Service to study and later be junior lecturer at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. In 1953 he joined the Colonial Research Service, for six years running the successful Pare-Taveta scheme in Tanzania to control malaria. He worked for three years in Nigeria on viruses and for five years in England at the Wellcome Foundation on rubella vaccine and interferon. In 1969 he returned to the London School as senior lecturer, working there, until his retirement, on rabies,

schistomomiasis, Burkitt's syndrome, and leprosy. He was a member of the WHO Advisory Committee on Malaria. In retirement he worked for the Overseas Development Agency and WHO. He leaves a wife, Katharine, and three children.

Katharine Draper

Otto Fleming



Former general practitioner Sheffield and South Yorkshire (b 1914; q St George's 1949; FRCGP, MD (Vienna)), d 23 March 2007.

Otto Fleming was forbidden to graduate in medicine from the University of Vienna in 1938, the year of the German annexation of Austria. He escaped to Palestine, where he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps, serving for four years as a medical orderly. He completed his training in London and for 35 years worked in general practice around Sheffield. He was a founder and active member of the Royal College of General Practitioners, the first provost of the Trent region. He requested the University of Vienna to apologise to those who could not graduate in 1938, and eventually, in 1999, it granted him and his colleagues their MD degrees. Otto was a lifelong student, studying several subjects, including Latin and economics, into his 80s and 90s. He leaves a wife, Dorothy, three children, and six grandchildren.

R G Grainger

Michael Edward Glanvill

Former general practitioner Chard (b 1923; q St Bartholomew's 1947; DMJ, MRCP), died from ischaemic heart disease on 18 March 2007.

In 1949 after national service in the Royal Air Force, Michael Glanvill joined his father in the practice he had bought in the 1930s, serving there until his retirement in 1982. A

founder member of the Royal College of General Practitioners, Michael was one of the first to employ a practice nurse. A trained barrister at law, he was divisional surgeon for St John Ambulance and became a serving brother. His interests included caving, scuba diving, and, latterly, hang gliding, and he was honorary medical warden to the Mendip Rescue Organisation. In his retirement he studied Russian, obtained an Open University arts degree, and took up fly fishing. Predeceased by six months by his wife, Mary, he leaves three children and four grandchildren.

Peter Glanvill

Stephen John Hadfield



Former Scottish secretary BMA (b 1908; q Cambridge/St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, 1933; MA, DObstRCOG, FRCPEd), d 5 February 2007.

In 1936 Stephen Hadfield moved to general practice in Wiltshire and Devon. He saw war service in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, being mentioned in dispatches. In 1948 he was appointed assistant secretary of the BMA, where, in his writing and thinking, he contributed hugely to the development of general practice. He was under secretary of the BMA in 1960 and Scottish secretary from 1964 until his retirement in 1974. In 1977 he and his wife, Jean MacDougall of MacDougall, moved to Oban. There Stephen was treasurer of ASH Scotland and the Oban Red Cross. He took leading roles in productions of Gilbert and Sullivan until well into his 80s and regularly attended sung matins at St John's Cathedral until shortly before his death. He leaves two daughters.

E M Armstrong

John Spencer Jones

Former consultant chest physician south east Kent (b 1924; q Guy's Hospital 1948), died from bronchopneumonia on 11 March 2007.

While a medical student, Spencer volunteered to help in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, where typhus and tuberculosis were rife. On his return he developed tuberculosis, which delayed his qualification and decided his specialty of chest medicine. These experiences were largely responsible for the quiet intensity with which he lived his life observing, noting, and analysing everything. He worked at the Royal Brompton Hospital before a recurrence of his tuberculosis led him to work in Davos, Switzerland, where he recovered. His enquiring mind and meticulous record keeping formed the basis of many publications. Predeceased by his wife, Phyllis, he leaves two sons and four grandchildren.

Nick Spencer Jones
Chris Spencer Jones

Andrew Herd Muir



Specialist in Department of Vascular Medicine, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee (b 1954; q Dundee 1977), died from a heart attack on 26 January 2007. After qualifying Andy Muir held a succession of house officer and registrar posts in Tayside before finding a niche in Ninewells Hospital. He was much admired and respected by medical and nursing colleagues for his clinical acumen and skill. Outside of medical life Andy had many interests—he was multilingual, intensely interested in continental culture and cuisine, and a talented musician. He leaves a wife, Cathy, and three children.

Adrian Tully